

1. Obeying the _____ of Jesus comes before enjoying the _____ of Jesus
2. Signs and wonders follow _____ so that _____ can follow signs and wonders
3. Resisting _____ here helps them _____ him _____

1. Obeying the voice of Jesus comes before enjoying the victory of Jesus
 - a. I almost said that the most important step is hearing the voice of Jesus
 - b. But most of us can hear Jesus' voice just fine
 - i. Through others
 - ii. Through the Bible
 - iii. Through the whisper of His Spirit
 - c. But the big question is: what will we do when we do hear His voice
 - d. I had to answer that question in India
 - e. Our first Sunday, I preached and felt God tell me to say that He saw the people in the church
 - i. I sensed a need to preach salvation
 - ii. To tell them that there is one true God, and He isn't a Muslim or Hindu God
 - iii. I knew I was supposed to tell them that Jesus saw them from the cross
 - iv. My only problem? It didn't make sense.
 - v. Why would I tell the church that? They were believers?
 - vi. I did, and found later that of the people there, only the pastor and one other man were believers. Everyone else was a Hindu!
 - vii. I experienced the victory of Jesus showing Himself strong because I obeyed the voice of Jesus first
 - f. 1 Samuel 15:22-23
 - i. It isn't enough to hear God's voice
 - ii. We are to obey
 - iii. Not obeying is equated with witchcraft and is considered rejection of God
 - g. Our responsibility? Keep a soft heart that hears and obeys (Heb. 3:7)
2. Signs and wonders follow believers so that believing can follow signs and wonders
 - a. It isn't the purpose of today's message to do an exhaustive study on signs and wonders
 - b. The point here is to share an interesting observation that I saw in India that can provide much needed balance for our body
 - c. When I learned that the church I preached in was almost all Hindu, I asked the pastor why they came
 - d. He said because all of them had received healing from the Lord
 - e. That is quite the opposite of what we see in America
 - f. Mark 16:17-18 is clear that signs follow believers
 - g. I will submit that the American flavor of Christianity looks for signs to validate our choice to follow Jesus, but the Biblical role of signs is to validate His worthiness of being followed
 - h. Matthew 16:4 condemns us as the unbelieving generation
 - i. Greek word for adulterous means "faithless"
 - ii. They need more proof, more evidence
 - i. Bottom line? If we need signs and wonders to keep following Jesus, we may have never made a choice to follow Him at all.

3. Resisting Satan here helps them resist him there
 - a. It's easy to romanticize missions
 - b. We think Christians in other cultures don't face what we do
 - c. We see them as stronger than us, and forget that they are fighting the same enemy we are
 - d. Our enemy is active in every culture, and how we fight him here has an impact on how they fight him there
 - e. 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - i. our enemy - thought defeated - is still on the prowl
 - ii. we are told to resist and stand
 - iii. we are also told why - because we are part of a global gospel
 - f. The worst thing we could do for the believers in India is give up the fight here
 - g. Our fight, according to verse 9, gives them hope in theirs
 - h. Our promise? Verse 10 - through Jesus, we will be made strong, firm, and steadfast!
 - i. Communion is the reminder of how committed Jesus is to that promise.
 - j. Think if that, and thank Him for it, while we celebrate communion together this morning